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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/707,575	12/22/2003	Barry G. GOMBERT	117438	1574
27074 7590 02/05/2009 OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC. P.O. BOX 320850 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320-4850				
EXAMINER				
WHIPPLE, BRIAN P				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2452				
NOTIFICATION DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
02/05/2009		ELECTRONIC		

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

OfficeAction27074@oliff.com  
jarnstrong@oliff.com

### Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/707,575

**Applicant(s)**

GOMBERT, BARRY G.

**Examiner**

BRIAN P. WHIPPLE

**Art Unit**

2452

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 December 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SG/US)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. Claims 1-20 are pending in this application and presented for examination.

#### ***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

2. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 12/3/08 has been entered.

#### ***Response to Arguments***

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-20 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-2, 6-9, 11-13, and 15-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rhoads et al. (Rhoads), U.S. Publication No. 2001/0032251 A1, in view of Virtanen, U.S. Publication No. 2003/0124978 A1.

6. As to claim 1, Rhoads discloses a method for providing a copy of a document ([0040], ln. 1-8), comprising:

storing or uploading at least one of a plurality of documents in at least one of a plurality of document repositories ([0040], ln. 1-8; [0061], ln. 2-11);

receiving and storing in a memory on a second medium the plurality of collected document identifiers, and a user identifier identifying a unique user (Fig. 3, item 45; [0039], ln. 1-4 and 9-13; [0040], ln. 1-8; the recipient's terminal and/or associated input device is a first medium; the unique identifier is used to access the document containing the user's data, where the document may be a web page, a vCard, or an ASCII file; the user's data is available via download, which is storing; the system is available for any number of a plurality of business cards, and each business card is linked to a plurality of information such as name and contact numbers),

associating each document identifier with at least one of the plurality of documents stored in at least one of the plurality of document repositories (Fig. 3, item 43; Abstract, ln.

10-13; [0039], ln. 1-4 and 9-13; [0040], ln. 1-8; the associated database is a document repository; [0061], ln. 2-11; a plurality of central sites or distributed locations may be used to store documents such as contact information, audio/video clips, links, etc., which may be found at an appropriate address provided by a look-up router),

the document repositories different from the first and second media (Fig. 3, items 43 and 45; [0039], ln. 1-4 and 9-13; [0040], ln. 1-8; the first medium is a recipient's terminal and/or the associated input device at the card recipient's terminal and the associated database is a document repository);

linking the first medium with at least one of the document repositories (Fig. 3, items 43 and 45; [0039], ln. 1-4 and 9-13; [0040], ln. 1-8; the first medium is a recipient's terminal and/or the associated input device at the card recipient's terminal and the associated database is a document repository);

identifying a stored document as an identified document if any of the document identifiers correspond to a document stored in the document repositories linked to the second medium ([0026], ln. 2-5; [0040], ln. 1-8; the unique identifier is used to index the on-line database to access the document containing the user's data; [0061], ln. 2-11); and

copying the identified document to a third medium ([0040], ln. 3-8).

Rhoads is silent on collecting a plurality of document identifiers on a first medium.

However, Virtanen discloses collecting a plurality of document identifiers on a first medium ([0008]; [0035]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the teachings of Rhoads in the aforementioned manner in order to avoid the need to create multiple business cards for a common contact and instead display multiple contact identifiers through text and/or image documents (Virtanen: [0035]) and enable wireless communication of the business card through short-range wireless communication, thus eliminating the need to manually scan the business card as in Rhoads (Virtanen: [0007] – [0008]).

7. As to claim 2, Rhoads and Virtanen disclose receiving on the second medium an address identifier associated with the user identifier (Rhoads: [0040], ln. 17-21); and

delivering the identified document to an address indicated by the address identifier (Rhoads: [0040], ln. 17-23).

8. As to claim 6, Rhoads and Virtanen disclose collecting the document identifier (Rhoads: [0032], ln. 1-14),

based on a display of a copy of a digital document (Rhoads: [0032], ln. 1-14; the registration occurs on the registering user's terminal),

wherein the copy of the digital document is displayed on a fourth medium (Rhoads: [0032], ln. 1-14; the interface on the registering user's terminal may be in the form of a dialog box, a web browser, application, and/or other communication mechanisms),

the fourth medium different from the first, second, and third media (Rhoads: [0032], ln. 1-14; the registration occurs on the registering user's terminal, as opposed to the recipient's terminal or the central site).

9. As to claim 7, Rhoads and Virtanen disclose collecting the document identifier comprises scanning or sensing the document identifier (Rhoads: [0028], ln. 1-6; [0039], ln. 1-4; Virtanen: [0007] – [0008]).

10. As to claim 8, Rhoads and Virtanen disclose the document identifier is in a form of a data glyph contained on a business card (Rhoads: [0033], ln. 3-8), and  
collecting the document identifier comprises reading the data glyph from the business card (Rhoads: Fig. 3; [0039], ln. 1-4).

11. As to claim 9, Rhoads and Virtanen disclose the document identifier is in a form of a bar code (Rhoads: [0073]), and

collecting the document identifier comprises scanning the bar code (Rhoads: Fig. 3; [0028], ln. 1-6; [0039], ln. 1-4; [0073]).

12. As to claim 11, Rhoads and Virtanen disclose the portable device is one of a personal data assistant, a cellular phone, or a pocket personal computer (Rhoads: [0029], ln. 1-5).

13. As to claim 12, Rhoads and Virtanen disclose the document identifier is in a form of a smart badge (Rhoads: [0072], ln. 7-10), and

collecting the document identifier comprises sensing the document identifier from the smart badge (Rhoads: [0072], ln. 7-10).

14. As to claim 13, Rhoads and Virtanen disclose the document identifier is in a form of a token (Rhoads: [0064]), and

collecting the document identifier comprises collecting the document identifier from the token (Rhoads: [0064]).

15. As to claims 15-17, the claims are rejected for reasons similar to claim 1 above.

16. As to claim 18, the claim is rejected for reasons similar to claim 8 above.

17. As to claim 19, the claim is rejected for reasons similar to claims 9 and 12-13 above.

18. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rhoads and Virtanen as applied to claim 2 above, in view of Aldstadt et al. (Aldstadt), U.S. Publication No. 2005/0149765 A1.

19. As to claim 3, Rhoads and Virtanen disclose the invention substantially as in parent claim 2, including an address identifier in the form of a printed code (Rhoads: Abstract), and receiving a unique identifier comprises scanning the address identifier from the printed code (Rhoads: Abstract; Fig. 3).

The identifier in a printed code and scanned is the unique identifier discussed for claim 1 above.

Rhoads and Virtanen are silent on the address identifier used for delivery, as discussed for claim 2 above, being in the form of a printed code and scanned.

However, Aldstadt discloses the address identifier is in a form of a printed code ([0012]), and

receiving the address identifier comprises scanning the address identifier from the printed code (Fig. 1A; [0012]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the teachings of Rhoads and Virtanen by including the address identifier in the printed code and receiving the address identifier by scanning the printed code as taught by Aldstadt in order to enable automated equipment to aid in the sorting, tracking, and delivery of documents (Aldstadt: [0007]).

20. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rhoads, Virtanen, and Aldstadt as applied to claim 3 above, and further in view of Needham, U.S. Publication No. 2003/0089766 A1.

21. As to claim 4, Rhoads, Virtanen, and Aldstadt disclose the invention substantially as in parent claim 3, including scanning the address identifier (Rhoads: Abstract; Aldstadt: [0012]), but are silent on scanning an identifier from an event registration badge.

However, Needham discloses scanning an identifier from an event registration badge ([0004]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the teachings of Rhoads, Virtanen, and Aldstadt by scanning an identifier from an event registration badge as taught by Needham for purposes including receiving documents such as pictures of one's self at an event ([0003]).

22. Claims 5, 10, 14, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rhoads and Virtanen as applied to claims 1-2 and 17 above, in view of Needham.

23. As to claim 5, Rhoads and Virtanen disclose the invention substantially as in parent claim 2, but are silent on the address identifier is in a form of a radio frequency identification, and

receiving the address identifier comprises receiving the radio frequency identification.

However, Needham discloses the address identifier is in a form of a radio frequency identification ([0013], ln. 1-9), and

receiving the address identifier comprises receiving the radio frequency identification ([0013], ln 1-9; [0017], ln. 1-5).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the teachings of Rhoads and Virtanen by using radio frequency identification as taught by Needham in order to make use of a well known technology for wirelessly communicating (Needham: [0013], ln. 1-9) thus eliminating the need for wired communication, wired communication being less convenient for users than wireless communication.

24. As to claim 10, Rhoads and Virtanen disclose the invention substantially as in parent claim 1, but are silent on the document identifier is in a form of an infrared data association, and

collecting the document identifier comprises transferring the infrared data association from a portable device.

However, Needham discloses the document identifier is in a form of an infrared data association ([0013], ln. 1-13), and

collecting the document identifier comprises transferring the infrared data association from a portable device ([0013], ln. 1-13; [0017], ln. 1-5).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the teachings of Rhoads and Virtanen by using infrared communication as taught by Needham in order to make use of a well known technology for wirelessly communicating (Needham: [0013], ln. 1-9) thus eliminating the need for wired communication, wired communication being less convenient for users than wireless communication.

25. As to claim 14, Rhoads and Virtanen disclose the invention substantially as in parent claim 2, but are silent on the document identifier is in a form of a radio frequency identification, and

collecting the document identifier comprises receiving the radio frequency identification.

However, Needham discloses the document identifier is in a form of a radio frequency identification ([0013], ln. 1-9), and

collecting the document identifier comprises receiving the radio frequency identification ([0013], ln 1-9; [0017], ln. 1-5).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the teachings of Rhoads and Virtanen by using radio frequency identification as taught by Needham in order to make use of a well known technology for wirelessly communicating (Needham: [0013], ln. 1-9) thus eliminating the need for wired communication, wired communication being less convenient for users than wireless communication.

26. As to claim 20, the claim is rejected for reasons similar to claim 10 above.

***Conclusion***

27. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to BRIAN P. WHIPPLE whose telephone number is (571)270-1244. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri (9:30 AM to 6:00 PM EST).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Follansbee can be reached on (571) 272-3964. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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1/30/09

Application/Control Number: 10/707,575

Page 14

Art Unit: 2452

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Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2452